

BIRDSEYE STARS IN BLUES REVENGE!

Wycombe Wanderers 4,
Wokingham Town 0

WYCOMBE Wanderers put Wokingham Town firmly in their place on Tuesday night and convincingly avenged their 2-1 defeat at Finchampstead Road in November.

But far more important than the two Premier Midweek Floodlight League points, which takes Wycombe into third place in the table, was the emergence of Paul Birdseye as a midfield player.

Birdseye, who is normally a full back, moved into midfield on Tuesday, scored one goal and generally fitted in as though he had been playing there all his career. The two main features of his game were his coolness in tight situations and the accuracy of his shooting. Although trying to place many of his attempts, there was plenty of power in his 84th minute effort from 30 yards, which cannoned off the underside of the crossbar before being hurriedly cleared away.

But Birdseye wasn't the only success. Dave Bullock returned to the side and put in a convincing full back performance, capped with a spectacular goal, while the new look front line of Pritchard, Hut-

chinson and Holfield, was always dangerous.

Whether this small front line would stand up to a more effective defence remains to be seen. Wokingham weren't a patch on the side who beat Wycombe on their own ground. All the ceaseless fight and chasing was gone, while their only threat came from chunky Ray Brill and speedy winger Alan Cooper.

Indeed, had it not been for a string of excellent saves from Kevin Raine in the Town goal, the visitors would have been overwhelmed. Raine started the one man show in the fourth minute, tipping over Pritchard's accurate drive. Five minutes later he raced out to block Mick Holfield's shot.

Intelligent running off the ball and precise passing be-

gan to tear massive holes in the Wokingham defence, which was repeatedly stretched. Pritchard and Birdseye were constantly leaving the visitors rearguard in tatters with their superb, curling passes through to Holfield.

Centre half Scott cleared off the line from Holfield in the 20th minute, but under such concerted pressure Wokingham just had to crack sooner or later. Sure enough, after 22 minutes Wycombe went ahead. Pritchard again had the Town defence on the rack with a perfect pass through to Hutchinson. He pulled the ball back and Paul Birdseye was on hand to slot home his first goal for the club this season.

Two minutes later Pitts headed Olson's effort off the line and then Hutchinson's shot struck Raine but slid along the crossbar for another

corner. In the 31st minute Birdseye was on the mark again, sending in a shot inside the area. The ball was blocked but ricocheted towards the net and Caterer could only help it on its way in a desperate attempt to clear.

Wokingham's sole reply came two minutes before the interval when Cooper beat the Wycombe defence with a well timed run. As goalkeeper Kevin O'Brien advanced, Cooper tried to lob the ball but it went just too high and landed on top of the net.

Although Wokingham came into things far more in the second period they again lacked the penetration to trouble the Wycombe defence and it was the Wanderers who were again on target with the goals.

In the 57th minute Dave

Bullock put his name on the goalscoring charts for the first time this season. A long cross from Hutchinson sailed to the far post where Dave stole up unnoticed and powered home a diving header in true Ted MacDougall style.

John Delaney came on to try out his injured leg after 65 minutes in place of Rundle and understandably took time to get going. One strong header from a 78th minute corner, beautifully saved by Raine, suggested that he is keen to get back among the goals, however.

Rob Williams, who played in midfield instead of the back four, completed the scoring after 81 minutes, when he ran past three defenders and slipped the ball through to Holfield. A quick one-two saw Rob slip the ball home at the near post.

WYCOMBE: K. O'Brien, D. Bullock, D. Gambin, I. Rundle (sub. Delaney 65 mins.), G. Olson, R. Williams, P. Birdseye, A. Gane, I. Pritchard, J. Hutchinson, M. Holfield.

WOKINGHAM: K. Raine, B. Pitts, S. McGillicuddy (sub. C. Cox 70 mins.), R. Caterer, M. Scott, S. Galt, T. Chivers, A. Herbert, R. Brill, B. Hill, A. Cooper.

Referee: D. V. Reeves.
Half time: 2-0. Goalscorers (Wycombe) — Birdseye (22), Caterer (town goal, 31), Bullock (57), Williams (81).

PREMIER MIDWEEK FLOODLIGHT LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wokingham	5	2	3	1	6	8	7
Marlow	5	2	2	1	10	6	7
Wycombe	W	3	2	0	1	13	3
Chesham	U	5	0	3	0	14	3
Oxford	U	5	1	0	0	4	2
Banbury	U	4	0	2	2	5	15